URBAN DISTRICT OF WEST BRIDGFORD.

INTERIM ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

Council Offices,
The Hall,
West Bridgford.

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To the Chairman and Members
of the West Bridgford Urban
District Council.

February, 1943.

Gentlemen,

The restrictions governing war-time annual reports of Medical Officers of Health are even greater than previously and until the termination of the war only a brief review of the more important matters is required. The Vital Statistics are restricted to rates and can be compared with those of previous years by reference to the table on page 7 of my Report for 1938.

Immunisation against Diphtheria commenced in March, 1941, by a drive to deal with as many children as possible in the shortest possible time. By July two-thirds of the elementary school children had completed treatment and afterwards the work was continued at periodical clinic sessions held at the Council Offices and a better attendance of pre-school children was obtained. There has been a steady rise in the percentages of immunised children in the two groups of the child population, 1 - 5, and 5 - 15.

In October the Scabies Order was issued by which better control of that disease might be obtained. On notification of a case the Medical Officer of Health has now power to make enquiries and, if necessary, examine contacts, and cleansing and treatment centres can be established. Fortunately Scabies has not been a problem locally.

War conditions continued to render the work of the Sanitary Inspector very difficult. As soon as the war ends there will be a further influx of work but it is hoped that some of the war-time difficulties will quickly disappear so that work can be more progressive and fruitful.

I thank you, Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support at all times.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

Wm. B. WATSON.

Chairman of Health Committee - Mr. P.A.Izzett, J.P., C.C.

W.B.Watson, L.R.C.P.,L.R.C.S.,D.P.H.,Medical Officer of Health.

J.Eckersley, A.R.S.I.,R.P.,Sanitary Inspector.

H.Carmichael, M.I.M.&Cy.E.,M.R.S.I.Engineer & Surveyor.

P.T.O.

STATISTICS.

Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	9.4.	(England & Wales 14.2)
Crude Death Rate " " "	14.3.	(" 12.9)
Corrected Death Rate	12.9	
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age (per 1000 Live Births)	62.5	(" 59)

There were two maternal deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No serious epidemic has to be reported. Measles, after the prevalence in 1940, was notified in only 38 cases, and whooping cough in 20. Enteric fever was prevalent in many areas of the Country during the year; West Bridgford had 6 cases, one of them typhoid and the others paratyphoid. There was a strong suspicion that the bulk supplies of certain confections were the sources of the infection throughout the Country. The Ministry of Health and certain of the Local Authorities took action which resulted in a great improvement in the bacteriological reports on analyses of these foodstuffs. The opportunity was taken locally to warn food handlers of the need for strict cleanliness. There were 3 cases of cerebro-spinal fever, all admitted to Derby Isolation Hospital which also admitted the 5 cases of paratyphoid fever and 1 case of scarlet fever. The other hospital cases were: Basford Sanatorium 4 cases of diphtheria and 4 cases of scarlet fever; Newark 2 cases of diphtheria. The readiness with which admission was obtained to Derby Isolation Hospital was a great boon for which I should like to record the gratitude of all concerned in West Bridgford.

Statistics of tuberculosis are apt to be misleading unless taken over a longer period than one year, especially in the smaller communities. Whereas 1940 showed a rise of 57% in the number of new cases compared with 1939, the figure for 1941, the year under review, had dropped again to its former level and it has not risen above that level in 1942. Therefore it would be unwise to quote the figure for any single year in support of the contention that there has been an increase of tuberculosis as a result of war-time conditions.